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SUBJ: MITRIONE MURDER - MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PETRANO FACIO FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATE THIS MORNING (AUG. 10). I ASKED HIM IF GOU HAD ANY NEW INFORMATION ON FATE OF FLY AND GOMIDE. HE REPLIED

THAT AS OF MOMENT, GOU HAD NO FURTHER INFO TO GIVE US. HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT WAS RENEWING ITS RANSOM EFFORTS AND MENTIONED GOU USING TWO CHANNELS: FIRST VIA VICE PRESIDENT AND PERSON UNKNOWN TO FORNMIN WITH WHICH VEEP WAS ACQUAINTED, AND SECOND DIRECTLY WITH CAPTURED TUPAMARO LEADER RAUL SENDIC HIMSELF. PEIRANO SAID HE WAS NOT AT LIBERTY TO GIVE DETAILS ON THESE EFFORTS BUT INDICATED GOU INTENDED TO PURSUE THEM. I ASKED IF ANYTHING AT ALL HAD COME OF SIMILAR EFFORTS LAST NIGHT AND NIGHT BEFORE ON MITRIONE'S BEHALF AND HE REPLIED "NOTHING".

2. I TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER THAT AS I MENTIONED TO HIM RECENTLY, I FELT I WOULD HAVE TO MAKE SOME DECISIONS ABOUT SECURITY OF MY STAFF, NOTING THAT AS WE REQUESTED, MILITARY PATROLS HAVE NOW INCREASED IN THE AREAS WHERE MANY EMBASSY PEOPLE LIVE. ADDITIONALLY, HOWEVER, I HAD TO DECIDE WHETHER SIZE OF MISSION SHOULD NOW BE REDUCED. IN ORDER TO HELP ME WITH THIS DECISION, I NEEDED TO KNOW GENERAL VIEWS OF GOU ON SECURITY SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY. PEIRANO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY BUT THAT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT FEEL HE COULD GIVE ME THE TYPE OF PROFESSIONAL ANSWERS I NEEDED. HE SUGGESTED THAT HE SET UP MEETING THIS AFTERNOON AT INTERIOR MINISTRY TO BE ATTENDED BY HIMSELF, MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND DEFENSE AND THEIR SUBSECRETARIES, PLUS SUCH MEMBERS OF MY STAFF AS I WISHED TO BRING. PEIRANO

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Date: 17 Dec 82

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TENTATIVELY FIXED MEETING AT 1400 HOURS LOCAL TIME THIS AFTERNOON (AUG 10, BUT SAID HE WOULD CONFIRM TIME TO US LATER.

3. PEIRANO ASKED WHETHER WE HAVE ANY DETAILS ON FUNERAL AND DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MITRIONE. I REPLIED THAT MRS. MITRIONE HAD WISHED TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF THIS UNTIL SHE HAD SEEN HER HUSBAND'S BODY. SHE HAD DONE SO AND NOW INDICATED SHE WISHED TO LEAVE WITH HER FAMILY AND BODY OF HUSBAND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I TOLD PEIRANO THAT WE WERE STILL ARRANGING OTHER FINAL DETAILS. PEIRANO REPLIED TODAY HAD BEEN DECLARED DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING IN URUGUAY, THAT HE AND OTHER MINISTERS WOULD CALL ON MRS. MITRIONE, AND THAT FULL MILITARY HONORS WOULD BE RENDERED TO DAN AT AIRPORT WITH PRESIDENT PACHECO IN ATTENDANCE. WE AGREED TO COORDINATE ALL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN MINISTRY'S PROTOCOL OFFICE AND US MILGP.

4. PEIRANO SPOKE MOVINGLY OF OVERWHELMING, INCOMPREHENSIBLE SHOCK THAT WAS FELT THROUGHOUT GOVERNMENT AND COUNTRY WITH NEWS OF THIS TRAGEDY. I REPLIED WITH A LINE WHICH WE INTEND TO PURSUE HERE WITH ALL OFFICIALS: THAT I KNEW AS DID THE GOU THAT THERE WERE IN URUGUAY MISGUIDED PERSONS WHO IN THEIR INNOCENCE SAW MLN AS SOME TYPE OF RADICAL SOCIAL REFORM GROUP. BUT NOW, THIS DESPICABLE ACT SHOULD DISPEL ANY DOUBT IN PUBLIC MIND ABOUT CHARACTER, MOTIVES AND MORALS OF TUPAMAROS AND SIMILAR TERRORIST BANDS. THERE SURELY CAN BE NO DOUBT NOW THAT THIS STRUGGLE IS NOT BETWEEN POLICE AND MLN, BUT CLEARLY AND DIRECTLY BETWEEN URUGUAYAN PEOPLE AND THESE TERRORISTS.
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